

REMARKS

The present patent application has been reviewed in light of the office action, dated May 31, 2005, in which claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Boyd et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,166,831 (hereinafter “Boyd”). Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Teeter, U.S. Patent No. 4,451,030 (hereinafter “Teeter”). Claims 5-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Shimizu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,777,308 (hereinafter “Shimizu”). Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been amended. Claims 9-18 have been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2 and 6 have been amended in order to clarify the issue pointed out by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Boyd. However, Boyd does not disclose “using m rows of the sensors concurrently to scan during the exposure time, so as to obtain a plurality of staggered image signals,” as claimed in amended claims 1 and 5. The cited Teeter and Shimizu patents also do not disclose this claim element. Therefore, claims 1 and 5 and the rejected claims that depend from them are believed to

patentably distinguish from the cited patents. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection as to these claims.

It is noted that claimed subject matter may be patentably distinguished from the cited patents for additional reasons; however, the foregoing is believed to be sufficient.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Teeter. Claims 5-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Shimizu. Claim 3 depends from amended claim 1, which as discussed above includes “using m rows of the sensors concurrently to scan during the exposure time, so as to obtain a plurality of staggered image signals.” Claims 6 and 8 depend from amended claim 5, which as mentioned above also includes “using m rows of the sensors concurrently to scan during the exposure time, so as to obtain a plurality of staggered image signals.” Because none of the Boyd, Teeter, and Shimizu patents disclose the above claim elements, even if there was a suggestion or teaching to combine the patents, and Assignee respectfully submits that there is no such teaching or suggestion, the resulting combination would still lack at least one element of the rejected claims. Therefore, claims 1 and 5 and the rejected claims that depend from them are believed to patentably distinguish from the cited patents. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection as to these claims.

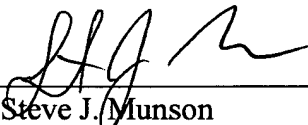
It is noted that claimed subject matter may be patentably distinguished from the cited patents for additional reasons; however, the foregoing is believed to be sufficient. Likewise, it is noted that the Assignee’s failure to comment directly upon any of the positions asserted by the Examiner in the office action does not indicate agreement or acquiescence with those asserted positions.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in the present patent application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Reconsideration of the present patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. Please charge any underpayments or credit any overpayments to deposit account no. 50-3130.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/30/05



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